



THE Inyo County News-Letter

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INDEPENDENCE CAL. 93526

January 26, 1979

The COUNTY

News Briefs

THE HAWAII TRIP IS ON; SOME LIGHTS MAY GO OFF (LIKE THE WATER AT FELTON SUB-DIVISION); AND WHO'S USING THE COUNTY GARBAGE CANS ANYWAY?

IT WAS A RHETORICAL QUESTION, but a point worth making: "Would there have been the same stigma if it had been Denver, Colorado, instead of Hawaii? I don't think so."

So asked - and answered - Supervisor Richard McDonald in setting straight a citizen complaint about two other supervisors (Wilma Muth and Dick Engel) who were planning to fly to a conference in the sunny isles. The National Association for County Officials (NACO) had chosen Hawaii for its conference, and Muth is a member of NACO's natural resources committee - which, significantly, deals with water issues. Of these Inyo has a few. The complaint concerned the published board minutes of a previous meeting in which two other supervisors, Herbert London and Johnny Johnson, okayed the county's underwriting Eng- (See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 15)

Bishop CITY COUNCIL

Old scores and license fees

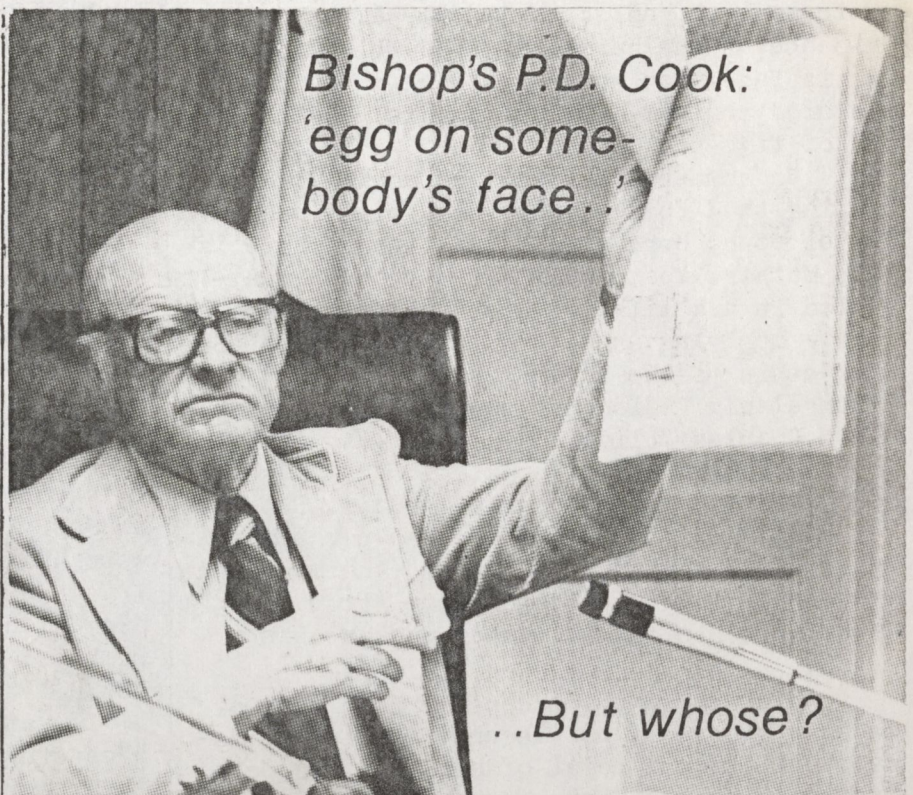
THE CITY COUNCIL CLARIFIED ITS "BUSINESS LICENSE FEE" ORDINANCE (ALL BUSINESSES WILL PAY EQUALLY, AND NO PAST BILLS WILL BE COLLECTED), BUT NOT WITHOUT AIRING OLD GRUDGES

ALTHOUGH HE DENIED IT SEVERAL TIMES FOR ALL TO HEAR, it appeared to everyone present that Bishop City Councilman P.D. Cook was using the Bishop "license fee" issue to take shots at Councilwoman Jane Fisher. It was he perhaps more than anyone who pushed the movement to fire her as city clerk a few years back, and now it seemed more than ever that he never quite forgave her for coming back into city government - not just as city clerk but - lo and behold - as an equal with him on the highest municipal governing board, elected by a surprisingly solid majority of Cook's and Fisher's fellow townsmen.

It was Fisher who as city clerk bore the responsibility of collecting or, as it turned out, not collecting, an increased business licensing fee from the town's motel owners. A 1975 ordinance had not specifically excluded the motel owners from paying, but it was the consensus of the time - and the recommendation of the planning commission - that such exclusion be allowed.

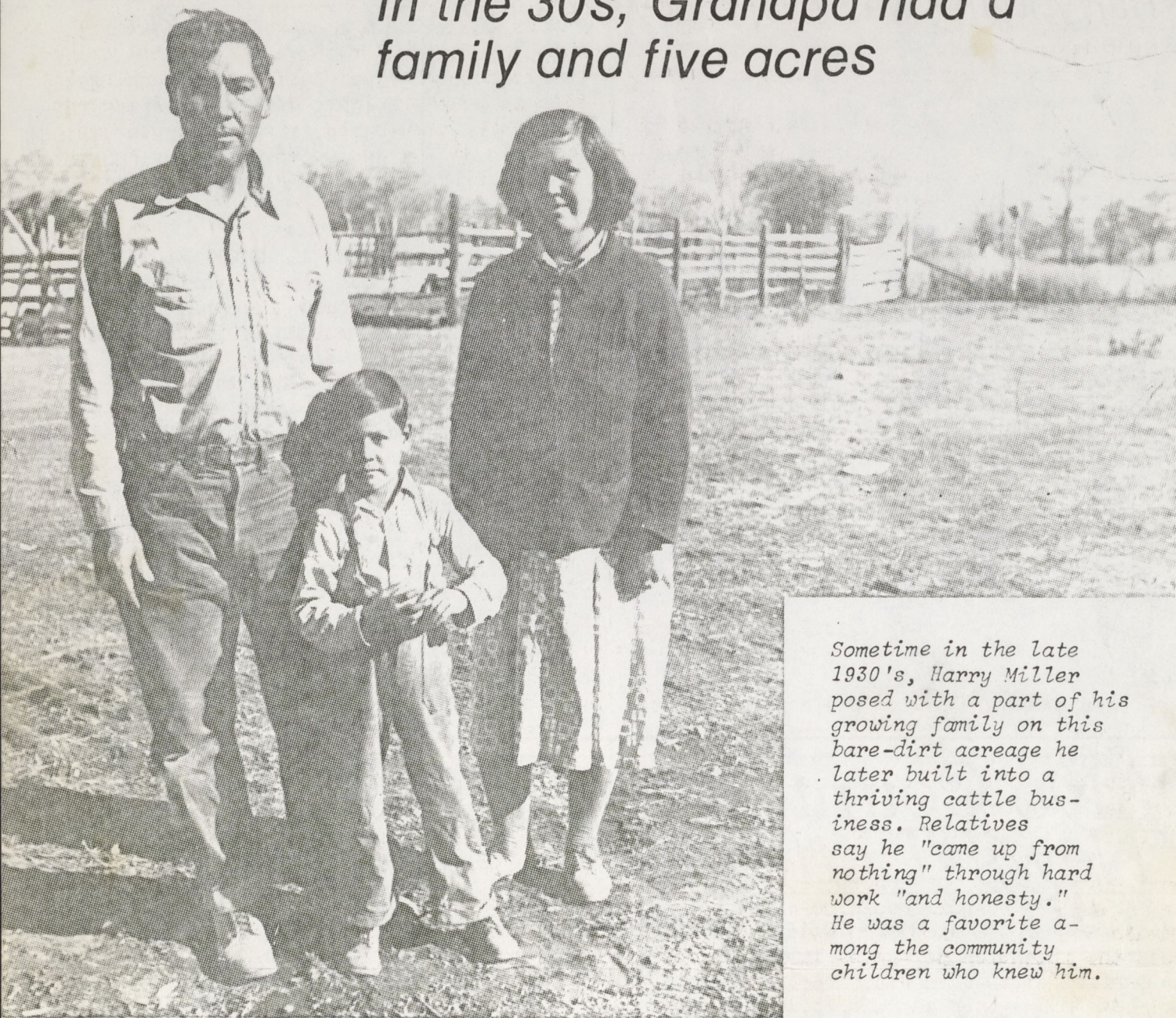
The issue burned brightly anew in recent weeks, re-ignited after someone at city hall discovered that for three years the motel owners had not paid - and now city hall was pondering whether to collect. The motels were billed a sum total of around \$4,000; some paid, others refused to.

(See COUNCIL on Page 3)



Councilman Cook waves fee payment "record" No forgive-and-forget at the Bishop council

In the 30's, 'Grandpa' had a family and five acres



Sometime in the late 1930's, Harry Miller posed with a part of his growing family on this bare-dirt acreage he later built into a thriving cattle business. Relatives say he "came up from nothing" through hard work "and honesty." He was a favorite among the community children who knew him.

Harry Miller is dead

AT 85 HE WAS A LOCAL "LEGEND" OF
HARD WORK AND HUMAN RELATIONS

THE PICTURE SHOWS HIM NEARING MIDDLE-AGE, posed starkly before the corral he built with his own hands. On the back of the photo someone had scribbled "1939," and the evidence of the hard-times "30's" was etched in his face. The woman beside him was "Ida," who died in 1952, and the boy is "Skeeter," one of five sons.

He sometimes teased his anglo friends, calling them "pale-face." He himself was a bit of both, born of a Swiss father and a Paiute mother. Most would agree that he manifested in his life the best qualities of each race - applying as he did the pragmatism and work ethic of the anglos (and the Swiss) with a singularly Indian philosophy. His father, Jacob Charles Miller, came to Owens Valley from Switzerland in the late 1800's and he married a Paiute woman, Jennie Goodale. But early on it appeared that Harry was perhaps somewhat more "Paiute" than "Swiss"; he moved with his mother to Fort Independence (from Big Pine where his father lived) when he was a youth.

From there on, the story is a part of local history, if not legend. Suffice it to say that the sum total of his life was perhaps best brought into focus last week when a little anglo girl, very blonde, sat down and wept on a porch step. Harry Miller - "Grandpa" to most who knew him - "wouldn't be

coming home anymore."

Somehow, Miller had "acquired" (Nobody seems to know the details of the acquisition) five undeveloped hard-scrabble acres on the Independence reservation. He had married Ida Leila Johnson in 1915. While he tried to develop his own land, he worked for others: for DWP, for various ranchers, and also as a sheriff's deputy. Faced with hard times and a growing family, he saved and - like many others of all times - sweated.

Last week, mourning his loss, a daughter, Leila Wilder, said "He lifted himself up from nothing."

And if Miller was successful in ranching (As years went by he leased hundreds of acres from DWP for his burgeoning cattle business), he was perhaps even moreso at human relations. "It was his love for people. He spread himself around and lived by the Golden Rule....I know I'm biased, but you don't find people like that very often.

"He was honest and always walked tall. If anyone needed anything, he was right there and our table always was full with those who were hungry."

He was not a "church-going man," but his friends and relatives said he "lived his beliefs; always to tell the truth, to be honest."

He matured in the days of a pervasive "Western" ethic that has been much-touted in literature and in Hollywood, but not always practiced: "He never had contracts. Just a word or a handshake from him was enough. People trusted him."

His family and friends say he was "not

an educated man" but that he was "worldly" with a "common sense."

"We always wondered," said one, "how he knew so much."

As time took its toll, his energies ebbed, but hard work - and hard fun - continued. He was active - now here, now there - nearly until his dying day. Back in 1970, he sold his cattle business to an Independence rancher, Keith Bright. But he continued to grow hay and to ranch as best his years would allow.

Then, not many years ago, he underwent an operation, losing a third of one of his lungs; his existence became more fragile, more tenuous. "He couldn't go hunting or fishing in the high altitudes...." He used to take trips to Utah and Montana, up to Lee Vining and over into Nevada...."

His love for sports and for kids was an ongoing and sparkling stream. He delighted in children - his own and others'. He held "tea-parties" and "tractor rides" for a four-year-old girl who lived next door.

About two weeks ago Harry went (more or

less as usual) to a local school basketball game. The Independence Rescue crew was called when he complained of difficult breathing. Taken to Southern Inyo Hospital he lingered for several days, dying there last week of pneumonia at the age of 85.

Hearing of his death, a family friend was moved to write to one of his surviving sons, including a bit of original poetry:

*"...His spirit is free from the
tired body that
is now earthbound.*

*The Great Spirit has called him home
to another valley.*

*We shall miss our good friend,
Harry."*

"Grandpa" Harry Miller is survived by five sons: Mark, living in Spain; Irving, Vernon, Stanley and Daniel of Fort Independence; and one daughter, Leila Wilder, Independence; a brother, Robert, of Independence; by 14 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

On Friday, he was buried at Independence.

COUNCIL, Continued

The non-payers stood with the earlier decision of the planning commissioners that motels provided their own "off-street parking," and that is what the increased "business license fee" was originally intended for - to solve Bishop's ongoing parking woes.

So after three years the council agreed, voting to release the motels from their seeming debt. The council would re-write the ordinance making the exclusion specific, as had been the intention of the earlier - and perhaps more forgetful - city council whose directives Fisher said she was following.

And that was that, except for some minor grumbling and arguing among the present council members.

Meanwhile, however, someone - a few say it was Cook - was stirring up the business community pointing out that the motels should not be given any special deals. One businessman, Joe Green, took the issue to court, and that put it all back on the council.

The confrontation came last week. Reporter Benett Kessler covered the meeting, then later interviewed the adversaries and filed this story:

"I am tired of being the scapegoat," said Jane Fisher, as an underlying but obvious personal tension gripped the Bishop City Council's discussion of the license fees.

For weeks the issue had been a nagging one and the councilmen's impatience to get it out of the way was evident. Mayor Bob Campbell opened the discussion: "Well, go ahead," he snapped, clearly expecting the harangue that predictably followed. Councilman P.D. Cook went ahead:

"I've been talking about this for a long time," he began. "I want it understood that I have no malice toward anyone.

"I had a discussion with the city attorney. I pointed out to him a section on licenses that any mistake by the city clerk does not negate owing money to the city of Bishop." Cook also said that the attorney, Fred Schaefer "agreed" with him.

It was Schaefer, however, that recommended that the council drop the fee issue and to give up any idea of collecting back fees from

the motel owners. Cook expressed shock at Schaefer's stand and turned to Ms. Fisher: "You were a contributor to this problem," he insisted. "It would be less cloudy if you abstained from voting."

Growing noticeably irritated at the ongoing exchanges and veiled charges, Mayor Campbell said: "We don't know what happened. There was no hanky-panky or foul play. We are on no with hunts. The evidence available indicates clearly the intent of the planning commission and the council (in 1975). The increase in license fees....It's a matter of fact...was for money to be used to develop parking. Motels furnish their own parking; I can buy that. Hind-sight is 20-20, but foresight is getting more blurred every day."

Ms. Fisher remained tensely restrained, under control over a patience wearing visibly thin. Councilman Don Swenson offered copies of documents which recorded the process which changed the fees. "It's fairly explicit," he reasoned. "They wanted to adopt the increase, but indicated no change for motels."

But Cook was adamant. Other council members sighed or drummed their fingers on the table as he went on. Earlier he had demanded taking the whole matter to small claims court to be settled - putting the city in the scarcely realistic position of suing a good number of the town's motels.

The atmosphere of the discussion - and its causes that dated 'way back - were not lost on another councilman, Peter Pearson: "I don't like this atmosphere of a courtroom. No one is under oath; there is no judge or jury. We are not executioners. I get the feeling we are passing judgment on the past council."

Growing still further exasperated, Campbell said to Cook: "You've got eight hours on the record. What do you want?...The motion is to accept the city attorney's letter and hopefully drop this. We're admitting error somewhere, but most make mistakes sometimes." That was not enough for Cook, however; he wanted to rattle the issue some more: "Those who have off-street parking deserve a refund." (He referred to other business houses that provided some type of off-street parking.)

(See COUNCIL on Page 9)

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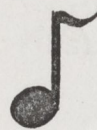
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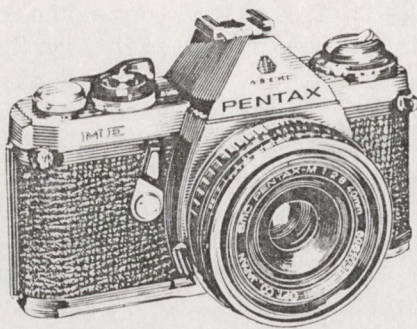
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COUNCIL, Continued

Finally exhausted the council put the issue to a vote. The outcome was predictable: Four "ayes," one "no" from Cook. The argument had lasted more than an hour, and in the several exchanges (At one time Cook wildly waved city clerk records and charged that there would be "egg on somebody's face!") it became increasingly apparent that the hostilities would do little toward creating future unity on the council.

The next day, Councilwoman Fisher talked to a reporter: "I did what the city council of 1975 directed. The ordinance was not prepared as the council of '75 directed. The city clerk, after all, is not in the business of ordinances or reviewing them.

"If there was any betrayal of public trust, it was that of the elected official who went up and down the streets inciting the businessmen to sue the people he represents." Asked if she was referring to Cook, Fisher replied "If the shoe fits, let him wear it."

(COUNCIL continued on Page 13)

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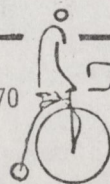
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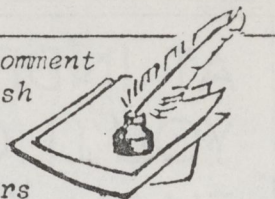


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ed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind News-Letter's readers that the publication of a letter on this page does not necessarily imply either the editors' agreement with its content or their guarantee of its accuracy.

SIGN PAINTING AND YOGA AT INDEPENDENCE: (ANOTHER CLOSE SHAVE FOR THE EDITOR)

Inyo County News-Letter

B.K. sets us all straight on "Peoples Temple" and other cults and the "Truth."
(Notes from B.K., issue of November 29)

Has she ever heard of the sign painter who shaved his head, called himself a Guru and extracted 10% of the earnings of his followers in Independence?

- Amused
(Mailed from
Big Pine)

("B.K." replies: Ordinarily, News-Letter does not publish unsigned letters. But neither does it avoid issues that may be of legitimate concern to its letter-writers, particularly in view of the recent national news about "cults.")

The writer - "Amused" - attempts here to suggest a parallel or similarity between "Peoples Temple" and a local Yoga instructor. It is clear to a number of people that "Amused" refers to News-Letter's John Heston who at one time supplemented his income by painting signs, a trade in which he is apparently talented. In about 1974, under the sponsorship of a church in this county, he instructed a class in yoga, which he himself had practiced for a number of years. The class grew in popularity and some of the students (of several religious and/or philosophical denominations) decided to form a philosophical study group. They (not Mr. Heston) decided to support its activities by "tithing" - donating whenever possible 10% of their earnings. These donations go toward the cost of a lecture (and yoga) room; alcohol and narcotics counselling; the support of two philosophical and religious (all denominations) libraries; and to a few (local) charities.

Mr. Heston "extracts" nothing, has little say over the small amount collected, and has never personally accepted more than \$175 per month for expenses incurred in his work. It is true that while he was personally directing a Yoga class he shaved his head for reasons I neither know nor care about. In any case, his tonsorial habits are, or should be, his own concern.

Whatever one may think about sign painters, Yoga teachers and newsmen, it is certainly to be admitted that they must always be "up front" with what they do, say, or write. Plainly that is more than can be said for "Amused who chooses (for motives all too clear to anyone) to remain anonymous. Thanks anyway for the opportunity to set a couple of other things straight; I, too, am somewhat "amused."

- B.K. (Benett Kessler)

(Editor's sub-note: Thanks, B.K., but next time no more unsigned letters for whatever reason. And, oh, incidentally, I shaved my head because it felt good.)

IREN MARIK AND AN ADMIRING STUDENT - AND THANKS FROM THE NEWS-LETTER

Gentlemen:

Because of your fine story about Iren Marik who is my piano teacher, I enclose my cheque (for a subscription) and thank you very much. She is great.

- Jack Schat, Sr.
Bishop

(Editor's note: And thank you Mr. Schat. We think she's great, too, and you'll probably be reading more about her.)

...AND THE DWP "TREE-TRIMMERS" SELL SOME PAPERS, TOO

Inyo County News-Letter:

Due to your item about the sale of Stovepipe Wells and your coverage of DWP butchering trees, I want to subscribe to your paper. Enclosed is a check for \$25.

- Mary E. Ford
Bishop

(Editor's note: And, again, thanks to you too. Since publication of the first story, an increasing number of "tree-trimming" incidents have been reported.)

PATRIOTIC VOICE FROM LONE PINE: WHY NO PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE?

Dear B.K.

I wonder what has become of American pride. Has it vanished to the point where the Pledge of Allegiance is no longer spoken or thought about? This seems to be the case with some classes at Lo-Inyo Elementary School. It has come to my attention, again I might add, that some teachers do not take the time or effort to teach and say the Pledge of Allegiance in our school classrooms.

Surely our children should be exposed to some patriotic pride through our school system. Considering the early age that many of America's children feel and express rebellion against our political system, can't we at least try to instill some pride in the nation itself?

I realize prayer is no longer allowed in school, but isn't the Pledge of Allegiance permitted? Will our children ever feel the swell of pride when they hear or say the Pledge of Allegiance? Will the lump be felt in their throats when the National Anthem is played? How can our children feel pride when they are mostly exposed to governmental upheavals such as Watergate?

It is true that parents should teach their children about our country and show pride which will reflect on our children's lives. But this isn't necessarily done in our malcontent society. Surely the school systems of America can help form a prideful feeling among our young. For no matter what our politicians have done or how discontent we may be

A Quiet Place

*They came because
their wearied souls could sense
this healing place
where sounds from God
spring freely forth
unfettered by crowded space.*

*And when they come
from cities choked
with fouled air and noise;
when they are still
they finally hear
His gentle, soothing voice
in songs of birds
who sing His praise
winging through the skies,
in windswept trees with
branches raised up high
against the hills.*

*His spirit dwells
amongst the rocks, the
snow-capped peaks and
in the streams;
in all the creatures wild and free.*

*And above them all
His spirit dwells especially
in you and me.*

- Anthony St. Vincent



over some of our national problems, this is still the greatest country in the world - a country that millions flock to every year from all over the world.

Perhaps I am being unrealistic, perhaps I expect pride to be there when there isn't any. I certainly hope not. The school systems spend much time on different races and cultures. We now have Indian History and Black History taught in our schools, which is a long-needed and wonderful thing. They are teaching varied cultures to be proud of their backgrounds. Can they not at least teach something so simple, but so meaningful, as our Pledge of Allegiance. For no matter what color, religion or sex we are, we are Americans first and together!

- Brenda Yother
Lone Pine

Postscript: I hope this letter finds its way into your paper. I do feel that the Pledge of Allegiance should be included in our school program. I had a strong discussion about this same matter last year with Mr. Duncan Hobbs. It cleared up for awhile but this year is a copy of last. Surely this is a valid problem others should be aware of.

- Brenda

(B.K. replies: I find myself in agreement with most all of what you say. I also regret the passing of prayer in public schools, although in fairness to different cultures and religions, such prayer should be universal (All religions recognize "God") and should include all students. The arts and the sciences, without ethical guidance, become heartless. And "religion" without the arts and sciences becomes mindless. As for the Pledge of Allegiance, it too - and also the system and ideals it represents - should be instilled in the minds and hearts of the young. - B.K.)

JOHN WAYNE'S ILLNESS, B.K. "NOTES" AND THE P.R. MAN ON LOCATION

Dear Editors:

In regards to the note on John Wayne in your B.K. column, I am disturbed. You said his P.R. man asked you not to print that John Wayne was experiencing symptoms.

My question is, if he asked you not to, why did you? Of course he is a public person and very much liked by America, but he should be allowed to keep some things private. It just doesn't seem kind to me, especially to add that the commercials were bad and that's the way he looked, too.

John Wayne has given us years of pleasure and he deserves better from the press. A man's feelings should be more important than a story in my opinion.

- John Wayne's fan
since the 40's,
Donna C. Pfeil,
Bishop

P.S. I would have liked him sooner, but I'm only 32.

("B.K." replies: The problem lies in the question of how far "public relations" people should be allowed to go in "managing" the news - especially in a story that apparently was going to come out sooner or later anyway. I'm as distressed as you are about Wayne's condition - especially after having the opportunity to meet him personally. (He is in my view just what you see on the screen, a real man.) But as you yourself point out, he is a public figure, and the news - and the public - have a right to know, sometimes in unpleasant detail, what goes on concerning the lives of people who exert broad influence on the public. I was in fact, feeling a little negligent in my own duty in withholding any of the story in the first place - B.K.)

The business license

News-Letter **FOTOPAGE**



Councilman P.D. Cook and fee payment record
"It was the city clerk's responsibility to find errors in the ordinance and correct them"

Councilman Cook talks on as Council get the floor; Mayor Campbell purse

IN 1975, PERHAPS SOMEONE HAD BEEN IN ERROR, BUT NOW NO ONE KNEW - OR MUCH CARED - WHERE THE BLAME RESTED; THE COUNCIL WANTED TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF CORRECTING A PROBLEM. COOK NOW SAYS HE WILL "MAKE ANOTHER MOTION" IF HIS CONSTITUENTS WILL PUT COMPLAINTS "IN WRITING."

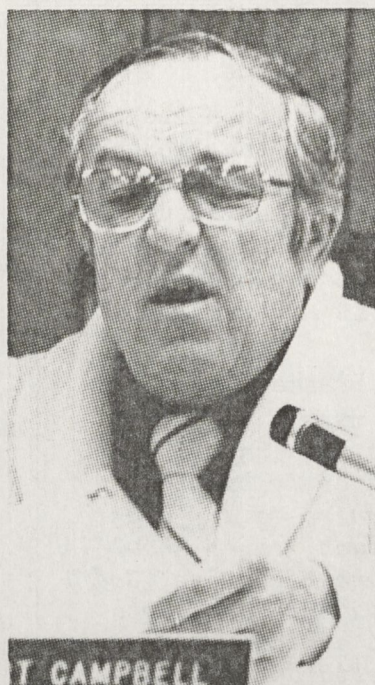
Photos: John Heston



Jane Fisher
"If the shoe fits, let him wear it."



Donald Swenson
"Fairly explicit: No change for motels"



Robert Campbell
"No hanky-panky or foul play!"



P.D. Cook
"I don't take shots at anyone!"

harangue

"I want it made clear that I do not criticize Mrs. Fisher - but she was the responsible party."

With such seeming contradictions Councilman P.D. Cook kept the Bishop City Council in a veritable uproar last week. Councilwoman Fisher said she thinks Cook is attempting to "discredit" her, and argues that as city clerk she merely carried out the ordinances of the council. But Cook prefers to direct blame at her, rather than toward the 1975 council whose omission triggered the current controversy over business license fees. After more than an hour of discussion, with Cook waving fee payment records over his head, the council finally voted 4 to 1 simply to follow the advice of its city attorney.

woman Fisher covers her face; Swenson attempts to s lips; and Pearson adopts a vacant stare into space.

COUNCIL, Continued

Fisher said that Bishop businessmen had told her that Cook had attempted to persuade them to sue the city. Though she said she was "reluctant" to discuss it, she said she believes that Cook - once again - is attempting to "discredit" her - that he is "constantly" trying to justify why he spearheaded the drive to fire her when she served as city clerk.

And how does Cook - in a post-meeting interview - see the issue between him and the councilwoman?

"She's taken some pretty dirty shots at me," he said. "She has accused me of a very serious thing. I want it made clear that I do not criticize Mrs. Fisher, but she was the responsible party. It is the responsibility of the



Jim Turner and Fred Schaefer
The city's administrator and attorney stayed generally out of the line of fire, but answered questions

city clerk to read ordinances and if mistakes are found, correct them." (Cook was not a member of the council in 1975.)

Well then, how about the working relationship he now has with Councilwoman Fisher; has it been affected by the fact he had a part in firing her from the city clerk's office?

"There were five people who decided to vacate her position. It was a unanimous vote by all of us.

"I never take personal shots at anyone."

As for Fisher's statement (about Cook's calling on the businessmen), Cook said he asked "25 people" who they thought Fisher was talking about and they all said "You, Dee."

Cook said he "didn't know" if Fisher is "bitter."

And now that the stormy meeting is over and the council has voted, will he now let the matter drop?

Apparently not. "If I receive written requests from my constituents, I'll introduce another motion. I have nothing in writing yet, but I have been told to expect it.

"One party told me that eight or ten merchants may file a class action suit. I won't say who."

As to whether Cook is soliciting such action - as Ms. Fisher claims, there was no immediate supporting evidence to that - and Cook himself is not saying.

But at week's end it looked like the old personal battles would be very much a part of Bishop's city government for a long time to come.



Peter Pearson
"The atmosphere of a courtroom"

'Finger pressure'

A SHOSHONE WOMAN, CHARLOTTE LANDOLT,
PRACTICES AN ANCIENT HEALING ART

(Editor's note: Since the western acceptance of Chinese acupuncture some years ago, westerners have turned in increasing numbers to several of the eastern healing methods which are believed to be based on similar "natural" principles. It was learned that Inyo County has at least one practitioner who for lack of a better name calls her work "finger pressure." On that, N-L Correspondent Susan Mativo filed this story.)



In appearance, Charlotte Landolt reflects her Swiss childhood. She works with patients, urging preventive health care.



Text and photos by
SUSAN SORRELLS MATIVO

CALLED "MARVELOUS MAX" BY THE "JET SET" he caters to, Max Golden defines "reflexology" in last September's issue of *Vogue* magazine:

"Your feet and hands are the real energy centers of your body. Nerve endings are concentrated there and send out warning signals of body problems you might have." And according to *Vogue*, a masseur can "rev up circulation; keep muscle pliant, even enhance skin luster" - this to the tune of \$30 (or more) per hour.

No wonder, then, that women - and not a few men - are lining up for treatments in the world's fashion centers.

And the "crisis" in health care is reflected in other ways than just the soaring costs - and plummeting quality - of care. There is a blossoming of a myriad of methods of "natural healing." People are reaching out toward nutrition, bio-feedback, herbal tonics, exercise and massage (to name a few), hoping somehow to regain some control over the well-being of their own bodies.

"Reflexology" and "finger-pressure" - somewhat similar to a Japanese technique called "Do-In", are among the more popular methods said to restore health before (and sometimes after) resorting to a doctor and drugs.

Somewhat surprising then is the fact that one of the experts in the field is to be found practicing her skills in Death Valley. But for those who know Charlotte Landolt, it is no surprise at all.

Since as a girl when she lived in Switzerland, self-reliance has been her way of life. In 1951, when she was 29, she left Switzerland for Getchell Mine near Winnemuccah, Nevada. Later, 1954, she and her family were drawn to Death Valley by its scenery, its opal beds and hot springs. On the ruins of two adobe buildings, they began constructing their new home, living meanwhile in a tent next to the site.

Charlotte, dividing her time between work on the house, helping to build a well (by hand), and constructing a diesel electric plant, planted a garden: parsley, Rosemary, lettuce, grape-vines and bamboo. The latter she now uses in making window shades and furniture. A third child, Nana, was born here.

The only dark cloud between the family and Death Valley's sunshine was her husband's health. For a cure, they turned to "finger pressure" as it had been practiced by a Mrs. Kyle who learned the skill in England during World War II. According to Charlotte the principle is to allow the blood to bring nutrients and oxygen to parts of the body that have been congested by disease. The blood then carries away the wastes. "The therapy helps the body get into shape so it can cure itself." This process is said to be sped-up by stimulating nerve points and points in the blood stream and, by massage, in the muscles.

Something like acupuncture without needles.

After long training by her friend Mrs. Kyle, Charlotte now has her own practice and an office in Shoshone, near Inyo's southernmost borders. Her prices for service are trim-

med to Inyo's and Death Valley's very un-jet-set pocketbooks - a modest \$12.

Many - most - of her patients are those who came to the area seeking cures from the naturally-hot mineral waters in the area; and there are others already in good health who want to stay that way.

Charlotte still lives in the home she built with her family, continues to tend the garden and the diesel plant. She remains, as always, self-reliant, but sometimes complains about the maze of laws and regulations that thwart the individual from fulfilling his potential. "People are kept from being self-reliant nowadays because being self-reliant is unlawful."

But so far as health goes, at least we do have choices.



Charlotte's hands exert a gentle pressure
Cures for Inyo's "un-jet-set pocketbooks"



"Finger pressure" can also make music
A new look at ancient arts

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS.....

For all the news five days a week,
hear News-Letter's Benett Kessler with
Bob Wellman at 7:05; 8:05; 12:05; 5:05.

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NEWS BRIEFS. Continued

el's and Muth's expenses for the junket. In light of the public interest generated by the passage of Proposition 13, a lot of tax-payers are touchy these days about convention junkets. One of these is Francis Grinnan of Bishop who appeared before the board last week to take issue with the proposed expenditure.

In reply to the complaint, Muth spoke out angrily: I asked the county to pay my registration fee and four days' room rent. I'm paying the rest; and you have to put a blot on my integrity. I have donated over \$3000 in travel expenses to increase my knowledge of county government."

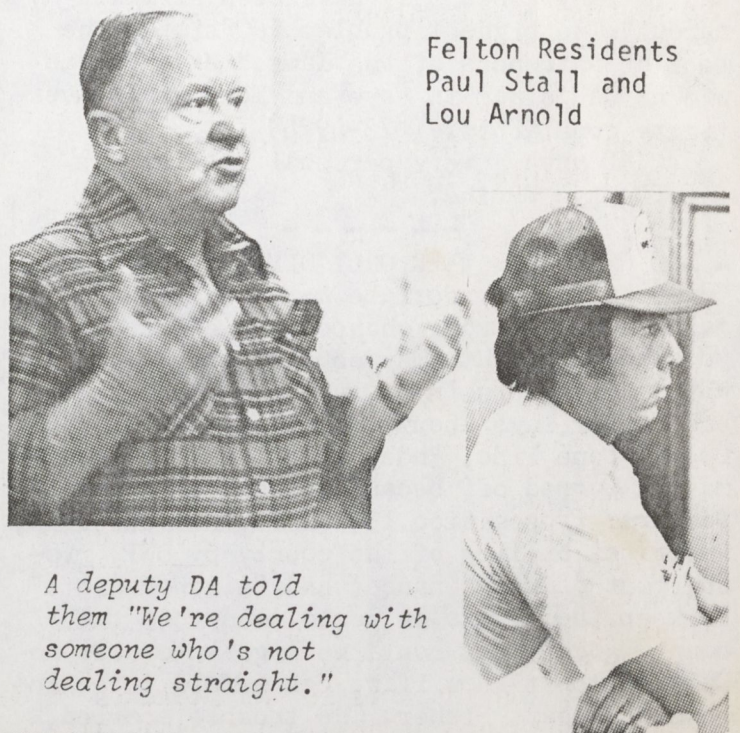
Grinnan backed off, explaining that "it was nothing personal" - that she had just wanted to know about the expenses for the trip.

"It is," conceded Muth, "a bit of a bitter pill."

It appeared at week's end that Muth and Engel will be making an uncontested - if not uncontroversial - flight to Hawaii.

AND MORE BITTER EVEN THAN MUTH'S PILL is the ongoing problem of water in the Felton sub-division of the Wilkerson Ranch area. Residents there want the supervisors to do something about it, pointing out that the county still holds Felton's performance bond on the drilling of a well at the sub-division. But Felton, claiming his work is adequately finished, is suing the county to get the bond. "We can only make Felton do what he promised," said Deputy District Attorney Greg James, "and then it's between the developer and the residents." But James conceded darkly: "We're dealing with someone who's not dealing straight."

Right now there are plans for negotiations in the Felton sub-division water issue. The board was told last week that James, Felton and his attorney, a health department representative, and some of the residents will get together to go over the problems. And what exactly are the problems? Said Paul Stall, one of Felton's buyers; "I was out of water for two and a half months at one point. My wife was ready to leave me. I want to know why the blueprints on the system were not followed." To that, no one seemed to have any ready answers.



Felton Residents
Paul Stall and
Lou Arnold

A deputy DA told them "We're dealing with someone who's not dealing straight."



CAN Volunteer Boothe and handicapped wife Jill Kinmont
"I have a very personal interest in this."

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

HANDICAPPED PEOPLE PAY TAXES, TOO, but often find it impossible to make use of the facilities the taxes provide. Of late, the California Department of Rehabilitation and its "Community Access Network" - CAN - has been looking into such matters. CAN has found volunteers around the state who will make local officials aware of recently-enacted laws that assure handicapped people that they will have access and use of public buildings. (If, for instance, one is wheelchair-bound, how then does one make it up to Inyo's superior courtroom?)

In Inyo County, at least, CAN's choice for a volunteer worker must have been obvious. Who more than anyone has dealt with the problem in very real ways? Bishop's John Boothe, husband of famed ski accident victim Jill Kinmont Boothe, has been named to head the local CAN project in Inyo and also Mono Counties. He points out that the laws now on the books cover the use of "everything from entrances and rest rooms to public telephones and drinking fountains. The laws apply to both new construction and any remodeling done after these dates ('68 and '70, in two different laws), and in many cases they have been seriously ignored." The biggest problem is "simply the lack of awareness of the laws," says Boothe who as CAN's man in Inyo and Mono will investigate complaints. (873-4924)

"I have a very personal interest in this," says Boothe.

A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE ONLY DIMLY AWARE (and "dim" is the appropriate word) that there remains a very strong chance that a lot of Inyo's street lights may soon be turned off. So why a dim-out in Inyo? Public Works Director Bob Fisher says about 50% of the street lighting in Lone Pine, Independence and Big Pine may be turned off because of a combination of factors: Proposition 13 tax revenue cutbacks; incorrect billing of the county by DWP, rising cost of maintenance, and "a low budget." To keep the lights on would mean that the county government could well go into debt to DWP. "I don't know if we can afford to go into debt," says Fisher. The trouble started, it would appear, when special district revenues were reduced by the tax initiative at the

same time that the Department of Water and Power chose arbitrarily to increase its Inyo charges. For some of DWP's services, DWP had failed to charge - and now the bills to the county are suddenly due and payable. If the lights go out, as apparently they must barring some alternative action by the county or DWP, here is the present plan:

Of Big Pine's 71 street lights, 30 would be turned off; Lone Pine's, 45 out of a total of 122; and at Independence, 30 of 87. Before the lights go out, however, the county will hold public meetings to hear the expected complaints, and to look for some way out of the dark.

IT SEEMS THAT A LOT OF COUNTIES OTHER THAN INYO have collected "park fees" from developers and builders - and then not used the collected revenues for the specified green spaces. Now the state has stepped into the issue demanding by a new law that counties get up front with what they're doing with the money. One specific of the law is that of deadlines: If money collected is not used within five years, then it must be returned, and counties are now required to present a "schedule" for such use. Inyo's Parks and Recreation Director Jim Angelo will be coming back to the supervisors with a schedule he will make up by February 13, but some of Inyo's officials - tired of complaints by builders claiming they were ripped off, would like to get rid of Inyo's fees altogether.

THE MONO SUPERVISORS finally got around to noticing that something was wrong - definitely - with Mono Lake. It keeps running out of water.

Their assemblyman, Norman Waters, whose actions and name appear appropriate to the situation, introduced a state bill which if enacted will prevent any further diversion of streams that flow into Mono Lake. The bill would leave it up to the State Water Resources Board what amounts of stream diversion would be considered "reasonable." The Mono board, which for years has paid lip service to complaints of DWP's water greed, passed a resolution endorsing the bill.

Meanwhile, as the legislature ponders action (if any), the lake continues to recede. The Mono Lake Committee is sounding out almost frantic warnings about the fate of the gull population (second largest in the world) on Mono's threatened Negit Island rookery. The island has become a peninsula and predators other than DWP are feared: Snakes and coyotes could make severe, and perhaps final, inroads on the gulls' annual nests. So far, DWP agrees there is a "problem," but has not yet seen fit to discontinue taking Mono's water.

COUNTY WORKERS SIFTED THROUGH THE GARBAGE and, once again, found the names of Lone Pine residents in the county's trash cans. Placed for the use of tourists in Alabama Hills and in other parks, the cans are to prevent littering. But local residents are using them to save a long trip to the dump. The county plans action.

Notes From B.K.



BENETT KESSLER

INYO OILLIONAIRE KEITH BRIGHT HEADS FOR WASHINGTON SOON, this time to seek a congressional business office for Inyo County. (The late Bill Ketchum maintained such an office at Bishop). Some Inyoans are miffed because Congressman-elect Bill Thomas has announced his intention to have offices at Bakersfield and Lancaster, but not in Inyo. Bright said that a Thomas office spokesman told him to contact the House Clerk about arranging an office here. And while he's about it, he may suggest that Thomas and fellow-traveling Republican Assemblyman Phil Wyman share the local shop, cutting expenses. Thomas has announced - to the delight of practically no one - that he may arrange a "mobile" office that travels up Highway 395.

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: Karen Fullingim of Independence. Karen, who is only 10, has a remarkable current events-consciousness, keeps a close tab on the news that's going on everywhere. Had the pleasure of meeting her personally the other day - one of the bright spots of my week. She's the daughter of Linda and Darrell Fullingim.

DINERS-OUT: Roy and Bonnie Mayhugh and friends - at Whiskey Creek. Mayhugh, who is the new owner of the Big Pine Cable TV company is moving ahead with the cable at Mustang Mesa and improvements at Big Pine. For area viewers he services he may soon have a pleasant surprise, but he won't talk until it's on the tube.

IF YOU'VE BEEN MISSING KIBS RADIO'S "DR. J" LATELY, (and more than a few fans have noticed the absence), the word last week was that he was hospitalized at Bishop. Some part-timers are filling in on his time-slot. We're told he won't be back.

THAT RUMOR TO THE EFFECT THAT JESSE MCCOLLUM (of the county schools office) will be Assemblyman Wyman's "man in Inyo County" is in error. McCollum said last week that he knows Wyman's aide, John Lovett, who will work in Inyo County from Wyman's Kern office (see above), and that five years ago he was associated with Lovett in a construction firm at Big Bear. "Lovett and his wife came over to dinner recently, but that's the extent of it," said McCollum, "I'm not getting into politics."

WE THOUGHT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SOMETIMES PROVIDED A CIRCUS FOR ITS (USUALLY SCANT) AUDIENCE - until last week we ventured up to the Bishop City Council. Compared to the council, the supervisors come up looking like paragons of sagacity. Personal vendettas on official boards - ego trips and antagonisms - are better left to schoolboy debating societies.

THE INFLUX OF TRULY "PROFESSIONAL" NEWS PEOPLE INTO INYO COUNTY may soon lead to the formation of a press club here. Two or three local "pros" are working in that direction.

BEFORE A NATIONAL TELEVISION AUDIENCE (NATURALLY) THAT FELLOW WHAT'S-HIS-NAME CONALLY - You know the one: the one who doesn't seem to know which party he's in - announced with a great deal of humble and modest pride that he'll be running for the presidency. (He has a lot to be modest and humble about.) And soon, we expect, Ronnie Reagan will be getting in to the act to further confuse things. And maybe that's what's wrong with the Republican party. Surely - somewhere - they can find a hand to play that beats this pair of deuces.

VACATIONERS: Lone Pine's Dean Vanderwall to Aspen, Colorado; Bishop's Dr. Robert Marvan, ditto. But publisher Todd Watkins wants to get away from the winter scene; he's gone to Hawaii.

THE BAR ASSOCIATION HAS A KIND OF NEW, YOUNG LOOK: New president of the bar is Ed Forstentzer; Vice-president, Dean Stout. Other news on the legal scene: Attorney John Bush who has been associated with Leland Bray, is soon to open his own private practice.

JIM WICKSER, the DWP's man in Inyo County, is reported (by usually reliable sources) to be recovering from some rib fractures. The report has it that he rolled a car. We'll send along a get-well wish - a sincere one.

LOOK FOR FACTION SPLIT IN ONE OF THE COUNTY'S INDIAN TRIBES. Some tribal members want to know where all the money is going - and why. And there is a group among the Indians (usually very close-mouthed) that wants to "go public" with some of the figures. There have been some cautious overtures to the media. And there has recently (this past week) been at least one firing from an Indian office. Not verified at week's end is the rumor that "nepotism" was the charge.

...AND MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS, EVERY DAY.

- Sincerely,

BK

Vignette:

WITH A LOT OF PRAYER - AND A
FEW VOLUNTEERS - A LITTLE
CHURCH STARTS TO BUILD AGAIN

Ever since the arrival of its new pastor, the Rev. Hoy Deeter, from Oregon about a year ago, things had started to look up for the little Baptist Church at Independence. Its membership had dropped to a new low - only three faithful members. Now there were nine ("Eleven with me and Mrs. Deeter"). Deeter is a kind of "traveling pastor" who explains that he "moves into a church and builds it up." And last week it began to appear that he would be successful toward that end: With "about \$500" in a long-standing but unused building fund he set to work rebuilding the church social hall which had remained unused since it was nearly destroyed by fire eight long years ago. "You create interest whenever you build on anything," he said. And so it was: Responding to the renewed energy at Independence, a group of volunteers from Bishop's Calvary Baptist Church descended en masse to do the work - and brought a broad smile of gratitude from 68-year-old Brother Deeter.

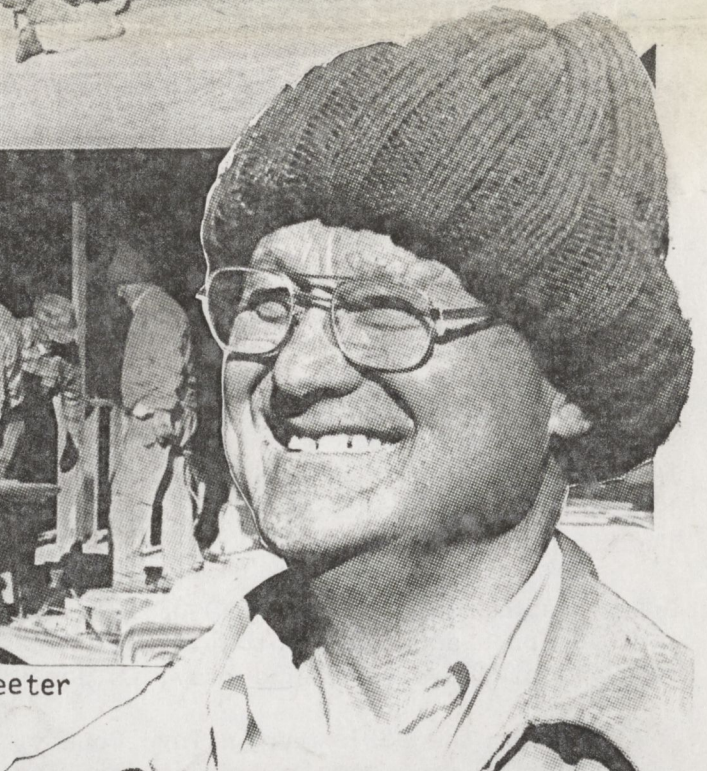
Photos: John Heston



Bishop
volunteer
Workmen
Jim White
and Bob
Newhouse



Pastors Donald Ashley, Hoy Deeter
"It was accomplished through
prayer - not a big program"



eastern sierra news service

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